BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Ways and Means
Brian J. Worrell, Chair

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

June 4, 2025

Dear Councilors:

The Committee on Ways and Means was referred the following dockets for consideration:

Docket #0828, message and order approving an appropriation of Two Hundred Sixty Six Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars ($266,100,000.00) for various capital improvement purposes for city departments including the Boston Center for Youth and Families, Boston Housing Authority, Boston Planning and Development Agency, Boston Public Library, Innovation and Technology, Environment, Fire, Mayor's Office of Housing, Office of Arts & Culture, Parks and Recreation, Police, Property Management, Public Health Commission, Public Works, and the Transportation Departments.

Docket #0829, message and order approving an appropriation in the amount of One Hundred Ninety Six Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars ($196,900,000.00) for various capital improvements purposes for the Boston Public Schools.

Docket #0830, message and order authorizing the City of Boston to enter into one or more leases, lease-purchase or installment sales agreements in Fiscal Year 2026 in an amount not to exceed Forty Million Dollars ($40,000,000.00). These funds are to be used by various City departments for the acquisition of equipment in furtherance of their respective governmental functions. The list of equipment includes: computer equipment (hardware and software), motor vehicles and trailers, ambulances, firefighting equipment, office equipment, telecommunications equipment, photocopying equipment, medical equipment, school and educational equipment, school buses, parking meters, street lighting installation, traffic signal equipment and equipment functionally related to, and component of the foregoing.

These matters were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and were referred to the Committee on April 9, 2025. The Committee has conducted a robust review process, including 32 public hearings on departmental budgets and associated capital budgets, 2 dedicated public testimony sessions, 6 working sessions, and has received written testimony from all City departments, as well as written, oral, and recorded testimony from the public. Prior to the FY26 budget process, the Committee held 3 hearings and 7 working sessions to collate the Council's FY26 budget priorities.

These dockets represent authorizations for the FY26 Capital Budget, which help to fund the City's $4.5 Billion FY26-30 Capital Plan. The projects within the Capital Plan have a significant impact on the quality of life for Boston's residents. They maintain and improve the City's infrastructure, enhance its mobility, ensure its safety, and provide necessary open space for both residents and visitors to enjoy all that Boston has to offer, across Boston's neighborhoods. In addition to significant routine maintenance projects for facilities and assets, some highlights of the Capital Plan include:

Office of Arts & Culture

- Fabrication of and installation of bronze sculpture of books at the entrance of Mattapan Branch Library.
- Fabrication of and installation of bronze figure honoring Frederick Douglass in Douglass Square.
- Design, fabricate, and install four bronze figures on four separate sites in the Chinatown neighborhood of Boston.
- Design, fabricate, and install custom interpretative signage for numerous artworks across the City.
- Conduct a needs assessment, programming, and siting assessment for the development of a neighborhood-based facility that could support local events and activities and also sustain local cultural identities.

Boston Centers for Youth and Families

- Develop building program and assess siting options for a new community center in Allston/Brighton
- Improvements at the Tobin Community Center
- Upgrades to the Orchard Gardens Community Center
- Renovations at the Johnson Community Center
- Major renovation at BCYF Curley Community Center including climate resilience and accessibility improvements will be completed.
- Phase 2 for Clougherty Pool
- New Community Center in Grove Hall
- Design and construct a new North End Community Center
- Renovations and repairs at various BCYF/BPS pools across the City

Boston Fire Department

- Purchasing of new engines and ladders as scheduled in the Apparatus Replacement Plan
- Design and construction of a new fire station in the South End and in Fenway/Kenmore
- Replacement of the current dive boat and "Damrell" the department's current 70-foot fire boat
- Purchase of new harbor patrol boat to replace the "Norman Knight"
- Construction of a new fire station for Engine 17 will begin in Dorchester.
- Design and implementation of upgrades to the Fire radio system
- Programming and siting study for new Fire Department headquarters building

Boston Police Department

- Design and implementation of upgrades to the Radio System
- Replace existing records management system
- Repair or replace elevators at A-1 station.
- Replace windows at District stations C6, C11, and E18 and roofs at C11 and E13.
- Install emergency backup cooling systems to headquarters server room.
- Capital maintenance at various BPD facilities including exterior repairs.

Boston Planning and Development Agency

- Study and design a garage to facilitate development of existing parking lots into mixed income housing and open space.
- Study and design of the entirety of an immediate flood pathway from North End to East India Row in the Downtown/North End neighborhoods. This is an expansion of the ongoing resilience work at Long Wharf.

Boston Public Health Commission

- Design and implement upgrades to the EMS radio system.
- Design and construction of a new EMS station.
- Repair and upkeep of buildings on Long Island that may be utilized in the development of the recovery campus.
- Renovate existing buildings on Long Island to support the creation of a recovery campus.
- Establish a disaster recovery site to increase disaster preparedness of BPHC's primary computer system infrastructure.
- Structural and other repairs as needed.
- Upgrade HVAC for improved heating, cooling, and ventilation systems.
- Study for new Boston EMS station within Franklin Park.
- Programming and siting study for a Hyde Park area community health center.
- Upgrades to HVAC components at the Woods Mullen and Finland Buildings, including replacing system fans and other improvements.

Boston Public Library

- Upgrade the McKim Building fire panel.
- Conduct a facility assessment, review neighborhood goals, develop an updated building program that reflects the BPL's strategic vision supporting the future needs of the neighborhood, and support additional interior improvements at South End Branch Library.
- Conduct a facility assessment and develop a building program that reflects the BPL's Compass Principles and supports the needs of the neighborhood for Codman Square Branch Library, Fields Corner Branch Library, Egleston Square Branch Library, Chinatown Branch Library, Upham's Corner Library, and West End Branch Library.
- A planning study for the storage, preservation and security of the BPL's research collections.
- Perform a study of the condition of the facades of the Johnson and McKim buildings and make repairs as needed.
- Upgrade and replace mechanical systems, windows, roof, and waterproof façade. Assess space programming at Connolly Branch Library.
- Upgrade boiler, windows, roof, and façade repairs. Assess space programming at Hyde Park Branch Library.
- Initial design and study of implementation of the McKim Master Plan.
- Replacement of the Central Library's Ventilation Air-Handling Units and Hydronic Pumps.
- Make critical repairs to portions of the roof at the Central Library.
- Replace the roof at the Brighton Library.

Boston Public Schools

- Implementation of the Long Term Facilities Improvement Plan – which includes improvements at the Lincoln building, the Hennigan, the Frederick, the Lyon Upper building, the Excel building, the Cleveland building, and Brighton High
- Design and construction of a new East Grandstand for BPS athletics including new locker rooms and support facilities
- Roof replacement across the district

- Study and design at the Blackstone School
- HVAC improvements at the Otis School and the installation of a geothermal heating system at the JFK School
- Pool renovation at the Holland School
- Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) collaboration for the new Shaw-Taylor School and the new Ruth Batson Academy
- Security-related improvements at various schools
- Bathroom renovations at various schools

Boston Transportation Department

- Expand the City's bike share network to connect neighborhoods that are further from frequent, reliable rail transit and support strong demand in employment centers and commercial hubs.
- On Blue Hill Avenue, redesigned Mattapan Square for improved bus connection to the MBTA station, protected bike lanes, signal changes, and sidewalks.
- Redesign of Egleston Square featuring widened sidewalks, median realignment, new crosswalks, raised crosswalks and neckdowns, traffic signal improvements, and rehabilitation of the sculpture garden.
- Design and construct safety improvements to various traffic signals throughout the City.
- Installation of electric vehicle charging stations at various municipal lots.
- Plan and design a transformation of three of Roxbury's central transportation corridors, Melnea Cass Boulevard, Malcolm X Boulevard, and Warren Street, into multimodal routes that center transit and active transportation.
- Design and construct Neighborhood Slow Street zones throughout the City.
- Advance planning and design for a Go Boston 2030 priority project that would extend the Southwest Corridor, via on-street bike facilities, to connect with major destinations in Downtown and Beacon Hill.
- Design, engineering, and construction work for significantly increased roadway safety infrastructure across the city, focused on speed hump construction, traffic signal work at intersections, and raised crosswalks or other ADA ramp work.
- Provide traffic signal design services, install or upgrade existing traffic signals and controls, install new control boxes and battery backup equipment.

Department of Innovation and Technology

- Install hardware platforms to run applications supporting City business. Scope includes equipment refresh for DWDM and BoNet equipment refresh, VoIP, firewall modernization, SQL environment recovery, and 700 MHz radio equipment and firmware.
- Implement solutions to manage and mitigate cyber security risks; invest in data analytic tools, technologies, and processes to empower data-driven management.
- 311 Modernization and Digital Service Delivery and Engagement improvements.
- Citywide Revenue Collection Modernization.

Environment Department

- Climate Ready Boston: Support the development of a study that will examine the feasibility of measures along and within the Boston Harbor to reduce vulnerability of coastal flooding due to sea level rise caused by climate change. Climate resilience planning for City neighborhoods and municipal facilities affected by climate change.
- Identify energy retrofit project opportunities for City owned light fixtures.
- Continued commitment to a Climate Resilience Capital Reserve.

- Develop an Urban Wilds conservation and land management plan to establish criteria to prioritize future capital renovations, land acquisition, and management priorities for existing properties.

Mayor's Office of Housing

- Mixed-income housing production and investment at the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) Bunker Hill Housing Development and Mary Ellen McCormack Housing Development.
- Renovation of existing BHA housing units including plumbing, ventilation, windows, and other building repairs and Phase 1 Redevelopment – which will include 1-to-1 replacement of the existing 253 public housing units and construction of approximately 435 new affordable and upper middle-income units – at Mildred C. Hailey Development.
- Elevator Modernization at public housing sites to promote accessibility, ensure redundancy, and reduce vulnerability to outages, heat, or environmental hazards.

Office of Emergency Management

- With a program developed, the City will identify and assess potential sites for a new Emergency Operations Center.

Parks and Recreation Department

- Renovation and revitalization of Fidelis Way, Byrne Playground, various Urban Wilds, Murphy Playground, Christopher Lee Playground Area, and Boston Common Playground.
- Design and construct a comprehensive park renovation, including courts, and passive area at Buckley Playground.
- Partial implementation of the master plan including ball field renovations and pathway improvements at McKinney Playground.
- Design for comprehensive park improvements to ball fields, playground, basketball court, parking area, harbor walk, lighting, and green infrastructure to mitigate future sea level rise caused by climate change at Ryan Playground.
- Continued annual programs for turf replacement, court renovations, tree planting, and safety surfacing replacement across the City.
- New proposed projects include remote control lighting systems installation at City Parks and repairs and renovations at Mt. Hope Cemetery and Evergreen Cemetery.

Property Management

- Install new backup generator and high density shelving for City archives. Upgrade HVAC to optimize building conditions for long term storage. Relocate the Archeology Department.
- Begin design process for comprehensive renovation of 1010 Massachusetts Avenue and begin initial interior renovations.
- Replace air handling units at City Hall.
- Roof replacement and exterior envelope repairs at 43 Hawkins Street.
- Continue phased City Hall plaza improvements that will expand accessibility on the South Plaza; waterproofing and masonry repairs to the plaza and the Dock Square garage.
- Repair masonry, address drainage issues and create an accessible walkway. Install permanent decorative wrought iron gates around the basement windows and restore the bronze fixtures at Fanueil Hall and Sam Adams Park.
- Replace HVAC system at Veronica Smith Senior Center.
- Design and implement HVAC and building repairs to the Boston Animal Shelter facility.
- Design accessibility improvements as part of a larger renovation at the Old State House building.

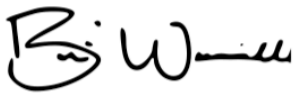
- Design and install a new 4 stop elevator in City Hall, allowing movement between floors 1, 2, 3, M, and 4 to improve accessibility of the interior courtyard and transaction windows.
- Make repairs to the loading dock, marquee, and audio system at Strand Theater.

Public Works

- Maintain citywide streets with resurfacing and reconstruction efforts.
- Re-build the bridge and preserve certain elements of the historic structure while creating a transformative multi-modal bridge that prioritizes pedestrians and shared public space.
- Installation of street lights in various locations. (Northern Avenue Bridge)
- Design and engineering for street safety improvements across the City, including intersection redesign, raised crossings, speed humps, bike lanes, and other traffic calming strategies to promote Vision Zero.
- Construction of street safety improvements across the City, including intersection redesign, raised crossings, speed humps, bike lanes, and other traffic calming strategies to promote Vision Zero.
- Design and construct sidewalk and/or streetscape improvements on Boylston Street.
- Reconstruct road, sidewalks, and lighting from Amory Street to the end and also sidewalk and safety improvements at the intersection of Canterbury Street, Neponset Avenue, and Bourne Street.
- Rehabilitate bridge, performing repairs as needed. (Cambridge Street Bridge)
- Design and reconstruct Commonwealth Avenue from Packard's Corner to Kelton Street, with the addition of a cycle track. State construction funding anticipated.
- Transform Charles Street and Tremont Street between Boylston Street and Herald Street into a pedestrian and bicycle-friendly street that aligns with neighborhood goals.
- Reconstruct the corridor of Belvidere Street, between Huntington Avenue and Dalton Street.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means I recommend moving the listed dockets from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At that time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that these matters ought to be **READ FOR THE FIRST TIME AND ASSIGNED FOR FURTHER ACTION** to support this capital spending plan that addresses important investments throughout the City, and sets the stage for future collaboration among the Administration and the City Council.



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